



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### STEVENS-JOHNSON SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Stevens-Johnson Syndrome was discovered in 1922 by two pediatricians, A.M. Stevens and F.C. Johnson, after they diagnosed a child with "severe ocular and oral involvement to a drug reaction"; and
- WHEREAS: Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and its offshoot, toxic epidermal necrolysis, are severe adverse reactions to medications including drugs often recommended to prevent the leading causes of premature death; and
- WHEREAS: Worldwide, roughly 2 million people fall ill and are hospitalized each year due to Stevens-Johnson Syndrome. As many as 140,000 of such cases are fatal; and
- WHEREAS: Almost any medication, including over-the-counter drugs, can cause Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, which may affect any individual regardless of age, gender, or socioeconomic status. However, most cases occur in children and young adults under the age of 30; and
- WHEREAS: The most severe form of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, occurs twice as often in females relative to males; and
- WHEREAS: Stevens-Johnson Syndrome often begins with flu-like symptoms, followed by a painful red or purplish rash that spreads and blisters on the skin, and mucous membranes of the mouth, throat, genital region, and eyelids; and
- WHEREAS: Many cases of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome are misdiagnosed as other viral conditions such as chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever, or the flu; and
- WHEREAS: Recognizing the early symptoms and receiving prompt medical attention are essential for minimizing the possible long-term effects of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome; and
- WHEREAS: Stevens-Johnson Syndrome Awareness Month provides opportunities to generate greater public awareness and support efforts to minimize the effects of life-threatening diseases such as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 2018 as STEVENS-JOHNSON SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Ritty*  
CHIEF OF STAFF